

# Runge Conservation Nature Center

## Ten-Year Area Management Plan FY 2017-2026



*Debbie Starn*  
Outreach and Education Division Chief

8-3-16  
Date

## Runge Conservation Nature Center Area Management Plan Approval Page

### PLANNING TEAM

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### CENTRAL REGION

RCT Chair

  
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13 July 2016  
Date

### OUTREACH AND EDUCATION DIVISION

Outreach and Education Management Chief

  
Signature

8/3/16  
Date

## OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Runge Conservation Nature Center, # 3600
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1977
- **Acreage:** 112 acres
- **County:** Cole
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Outreach and Education
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Design and Development
- **Statements of Purpose:**

### **A. Strategic Direction**

The Runge Conservation Nature Center lands will be managed to provide safe, enjoyable, and varied opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to discover and experience nature.

### **B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Runge Conservation Nature Center is to provide quality examples of diverse natural communities that benefit a variety of wildlife species, provide enjoyable and safe natural experiences for the public, and support the Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) interpretive educational program goals.

### **C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

### **I. Special Considerations**

- A. Priority Areas:** None
- B. Natural Areas:** None
- C. Other:** Runge Conservation Nature Center is adjacent to the Conservation Commission Headquarters Complex.

### **II. Important Natural Features and Resources**

- A. Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed.
- B. Caves:** None
- C. Springs:** None

### **III. Existing Infrastructure**

- A nature center building (27,000 square feet) with 3,000 square feet of permanent exhibits, a 200-seat auditorium, three classrooms, indoor staging area, wildlife viewing area, lobby, gift shop, reception area, maintenance area, and staff offices. The building is American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible.
- Covered outdoor staging area with ADA-accessible restrooms and drinking fountains.

- Two outdoor heated storage buildings.
- Paved parking for 129 vehicles including 32 spaces in a gated overflow lot. In addition there are 15 employee parking spots and spaces for five busses.
- Five hiking trails, including two woodchipped and three hard surface trails, totaling 2.4 miles, including the Naturescape Trail (ADA accessible, 0.3 miles, Raccoon Run Trail (0.9 miles) and spur (0.1 miles), Towering Oak Trail (0.5 miles), Moss Rock Trace Trail (0.3 miles), and Bluestem Ridge Trail (0.3 miles).
- Fire tower used for historic interpretation.
- Six ponds (2 acres total), including three amphibian ponds, two small wildlife watering holes, and one pond that is stocked only for nature center programming.

#### IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** Approximately 20 acres (East Tract) are located on the east side of Highway 179. This area does not have public access.
- B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.
- C. Easements:** There is a gas line that runs through the property. Ameren UE maintains a power line easement on the north side of the area, and the Missouri Department of Transportation maintains an easement along Highway 179.
- D. Cultural Resources Findings:** No known cultural resources.
- E. Endangered Species:** None observed.
- F. Boundary Issues:** Establishing accurate and identifiable boundary markers is a priority for this property.
- G. Other:** Many outdoor recreational activities are restricted at the nature center by the Wildlife Code due to the high volume of users. Visitors are asked to remain on the trails except by Special Use Permit. The collecting of natural items is prohibited to protect the area from overuse. Fishing and hunting are also prohibited without special use considerations.

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is a small and heavily used conservation area located within the city limits of Jefferson City. The area opened in July 1993 and is located on 112 acres.

Because of high public use, decisions about area management are based first on visitor safety and second on protecting the resource. Management of the area requires extensive resources of personnel and equipment, which may interfere temporarily with public use and generate

questions or affect neighbors. The area provides a unique opportunity to educate the public about the role of conservation management for the benefit of both wildlife and people.

## **V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations**

Existing open lands are remnants of pasture land that composed most of the area at the time of purchase. Aerial photographs of the area taken in 1960 show an open grazed pasture with scattered “wolf” trees. Since that time, most of the area has converted to woody species interlaced with old fields. All of the area’s open land habitats will include examples of how the Department promotes renovation, establishment, and maintenance of these open land types.

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) The area is located within the city limits of Jefferson City.
- 2) The area is connected to the Conservation Commission Headquarters office complex.
- 3) This area was farmed before purchase by the Department. Many of the areas are in successional stages due to prior farming.
- 4) This area is dissected by Highway 179.
- 5) Heavy public use may cause conflicts among users and natural resource management.
- 6) Many of the open areas contain invasive plants such as shrub honeysuckle and sercia lespedeza.
- 7) This area is made up mostly of transitional soils that are adaptable to both forest and grasslands. The area has a predominantly north and south aspect; so there should be no physical limitation to achieving the open land objectives.
- 8) Open land habitat represents an important part of the area utilized by wildlife.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain healthy trees and woodlands with management emphasis on wildlife habitat and aesthetics.

**Strategy 1:** Monitor woodlands for invasive vegetation, diseases, and insects.

Suppress any infestations that may develop. (Design and Development/Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Retain and protect existing centennial oak trees by clearing undesirable trees and brush beneath the drip line. (Outreach and Education/Design and Development/Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Assess hazardous trees close to the trails to determine if pruning or removal is needed for safety purposes. (Outreach and Education/Design and Development/Forestry)

**Strategy 4:** Improve, maintain, and expand all forested areas by thinning, prescribed fire, planting, or pruning as recommended by Forestry Division. (Design and Development/Forestry)

**Strategy 5:** Reduce cedar encroachment and replace with appropriate woodland trees and forbs. (Design and Development/Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Replace degraded woodland stand in the southwest corner of the property with a native oak-hickory type forest.

**Strategy 1:** Clear some of the downed and ice-damaged trees along with small cedars that have encroached on the area. Leave some downed trees for habitat for insects, cavity users, and their predators. (Design and Development/Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Plant forestry-approved trees in the cleared area. (Design and Development/Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Continue forest thinning and appropriate forest management as needed around the cut area. Prior to thinning, conduct a project forest inventory on the area to be thinned to learn composition, density, health, and age of tree species. (Forestry)

**Strategy 4:** Control problematic species such as bush honeysuckle and grape within the area. stand. (Design and Development)

**Management Objective 3:** Maintain a 29-acre tallgrass prairie/savanna complex.

**Strategy 1:** Manage by conducting prescribed burns every one to three years. (Design and Development/Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Remove undesirable woody vegetation. (Design and Development)

**Strategy 3:** Broadcast native prairie plant seeds on burned or raked areas. (Outreach and Education/Design and Development)

**Strategy 4:** Remove and control invasive plants. (Design and Development)

**Management Objective 4:** Maintain and enlarge the glade area along Moss Rock Trace Trail.

**Strategy 1:** Use prescribed burning to burn through the glade every one to three years. This can be done at the same time the prairie is being burned. (Design and Development/Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Thin cedar trees near the current glade to expand the glade into the surrounding landscape with eventual connection to a small glade on Towering Oak Trail. (Design and Development/Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Broadcast native seed on the area and add plantings, such as prairie dock, that are specifically found in glade habitats. (Outreach and Education/Design and Development)

## **VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations**

The stream resources at Runge Conservation Nature Center consist of approximately 0.6 miles of a first-order unnamed tributary of Wear's Creek. The tributary is intermittent and has a gradient of approximately 45 feet per mile. The nature center also has a small fishing pond (0.1 acre), five ephemeral ponds, and a small wetland.

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Surrounding neighborhoods cause higher than normal nutrient runoff, which gets diverted into a small marsh area.
- 2) Utility lines along the creek prevent the planting of trees along part of the riparian corridor.

### **Management Objective 1: Maintain healthy aquatic habitats.**

**Strategy 1:** Monitor the wetland areas for invasive species. Suppress any infestations that may develop. (Design and Development/Fisheries)

**Strategy 2:** Maintain a pond that demonstrates good examples of pond management techniques and provides for the education, use, and enjoyment of the pond by the public. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 3:** Maintain a quality population of fish to provide program opportunities for catch-and-release fishing by stocking 6-8" hybrid sunfish in the Raccoon Run Spur Pond, as needed. (Fisheries)

**Strategy 4:** Maintain five ephemeral pools for amphibians, reptiles, and aquatic invertebrates. (Design and Development)

**Strategy 5:** Monitor stream banks for accelerated erosion and stabilize banks as needed. (Design and Development)

### **Management Objective 2: Maintain a 0.27-acre wetland near the Wear's Creek tributary on the west side of the area.**

**Strategy 1:** Provide for shallow water pre-emergent wetland. (Design and Development/Fisheries)

**Strategy 2:** Plant bald cypress trees and emphasize plants that characterize a cypress marsh in southeast Missouri for educational purposes. (Design and Development/Fisheries)

**Strategy 3:** Monitor the area for invasive species. Suppress any infestations that may develop using appropriate methods. (Design and Development/Fisheries)

**Strategy 4:** Plant and manage native plant species to promote wetland plant diversity. (Fisheries)

## **VII. Public Use Management Considerations**

The primary purpose of the area is to provide a place for visitors to discover nature and learn about conservation through educational and interpretive opportunities. The focus of the nature center grounds is to provide a place where the public can view, learn about, and appreciate the variety of habitats found in Missouri and how these habitats are managed for forest, fish, and wildlife.

Runge Conservation Nature Center provides an inviting place for the public to discover nature. There are five nature trails totaling 2.4 miles. Three of these trails are paved and two have wood chipped surfaces. Staff provide interpretation along the trails, and interpretive trail maps are available for the public. Interpretive signs are located along the Naturescape Trail, providing information on landscaping for wildlife. The fire tower along the Raccoon Run Trail includes interpretive signs specific to the historical use of fire towers in Missouri. A large interpretive sign with a map of the entire area is located near the parking lot. Smaller trailhead signs are located at the entrance to each trail, including maps highlighting each trail. There are also signs located along the longer trails to highlight specific wildlife habitat.

Inside the building, there is a wildlife viewing area on the north side of the building that includes interpretation.

The East Tract has not been developed and currently provides no interpretive or recreational opportunities for the public due to closed access from Highway 179.

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Provide wildlife viewing opportunities.
- 2) Provide educational and interpretive opportunities.
- 3) Build positive relationships with neighboring landowners.
- 4) High visitation increases maintenance issues that need immediate attention.
- 5) Provide an aesthetic connection using native plantings to the main entrance of the building.
- 6) Create an atmosphere of anticipation and connection to nature that reflects positively on the Department.

**Management Objective 1:** Provide public wildlife viewing opportunities.

**Strategy 1:** Conduct annual management activities that will provide habitat for a diversity of species. (Outreach and Education/Design and Development)



**Strategy 2:** Monitor white-tailed deer populations and consider proposing managed hunts as a tool to reduce deer-vehicle accidents and mitigate concerns of neighbors about deer numbers. (Wildlife)

**Strategy 3:** Maintain trails to allow public access to view wildlife and to connect with nature. (Outreach and Education/Design and Development)

**Management Objective 2:** Provide educational and interpretive opportunities.

**Strategy 1:** Communicate recreational opportunities to the public (e.g., brochures, Atlas database, newsletter, etc.). (Outreach and Education)

**Strategy 2:** Communicate to teachers, students, scout groups, and youth groups the uniqueness of the area to facilitate nature exploration. (Outreach and Education)

**Strategy 3:** Maintain area signs with current information about activities and opportunities. (Outreach and Education)

**Strategy 4:** Provide innovative ways of connecting people to nature using technology. (Outreach and Education)

**Strategy 5:** Continue to offer outdoor guided programming to organized groups, Discover Nature Schools, and the public. (Outreach and Education)

**Strategy 6:** Connect signage along trails with interpretive exhibits inside the facility to create a more uniform and cohesive nature experience. (Outreach and Education)

**Strategy 7:** Provide opportunity for the public to participate in management activities on the area. (Outreach and Education/Design and Development)

**Management Objective 3:** Facilitate a good working relationship with neighboring landowners.

**Strategy 1:** Work with neighbors to minimize any boundary, trespass, or any other issues affecting the Runge Conservation Nature Center or private property. (Design and Development)

**Strategy 2:** Promote habitat management on neighboring landowner properties. (Private Land Services)

**Management Objective 4:** Improve and open the view into the Runge Conservation Nature Center from Highway 179.

**Strategy 1:** Maintain native wildflower planting along the entrance to Highway 179. (Design and Development)

**Strategy 2:** Selectively clear vegetation along the Highway 179 right of way and plant native trees and shrubs to add emphasis and seasonal interest. (Design and Development)

**Strategy 3:** Investigate the addition of signage that can be seen by drivers along Highway 179 that will help with visibility and abide by the Missouri Department of Transportation's guidelines. (Outreach and Education/Design and Development)

**Management Objective 5:** Provide an aesthetically pleasing experience from the area entrance to the facility entrance.

**Strategy 1:** Continue to maintain parking lots so they appear to be part of the surrounding woods. Emphasize the use of native species that appear consistent with the site. (Design and Development)

**Strategy 2:** Continue to use native and/or cultivars of native plants to accentuate the walk from the parking lots to the main entrance and around the front of the building. (Outreach and Education/Design and Development)

**Strategy 3:** Aggressively manage weeds and plantings in this area to provide a more manicured landscape in order to meet people at their comfort level with regards to landscaping. (Outreach and Education/Design and Development)

**Management Objective 6:** Continue development of highly used and highly visible parts of the nature center grounds including the Naturescape Trail and the outdoor viewing area on the north side of the building. Maintain consistency with the interpretive objectives.

**Strategy 1:** Cut off the view into the service area to the east from the wildlife viewing area by adding native plantings. (Outreach and Education)

**Strategy 2:** Replace bird feeders and poles with new feeders and metal poles. Fix or replace the current feeding area microphones to ensure animal sounds and calls can be heard inside the building. (Outreach and Education)

**Strategy 3:** Redo plantings along the trail near the formal garden area to replace shrubs that have been removed. (Outreach and Education)

**Strategy 4:** Convert an area along the Naturescape Trail into a nature explore area and connect the area visually and physically to the landscaping around the front of the building. (Outreach and Education/Design and Development)

**Strategy 5:** Replace aged and faded signage along the Naturescape Trail. (Outreach and Education/Design and Development)

**Strategy 6:** Continue to enhance the Naturescape Trail entrance through native plantings. (Outreach and Education/Design and Development)

## Challenges and Opportunities:

- Strategy 1:** Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines and at currently identified maintenance level. (Design and Development)

**Strategy 1:** Investigate possible uses and accessibility of the East Tract (Outreach and Education/Design and Development)

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

[illegible]

## APPENDICES

### Area Background:

Land for the Runge Conservation Nature Center was purchased in two separate transactions. In 1977, 43 acres were bought from the Dulle family and, in 1978, another 63 acres were bought from St. Peter's Cemetery.

The first trail was built about 1983 and is currently the Raccoon Run/Bluestem Ridge Trail. About a year later, Highway 179 was built and dissected the area, and the trails had to be redesigned. The far west extension was done in 1986. The Woods Loop, currently Towering Oak Trail, was completed around 1989. The Moss Rock Trace Trail and the Naturescape Trail were completed in 1993, along with the opening of the Runge Conservation Nature Center building. An intensively managed Naturescape Trail, including examples of residential-scaled landscapes for native wildlife and plant demonstrations, was constructed in 1993. An overflow parking lot, located above the main lot to the south, was constructed in 1998. In 2000, a fire tower along with interpretive signage was added to the area for the purpose of interpreting the history of fire prevention in the state of Missouri. A bronze sculpture along with landscaping was added to the main entrance in 2011.

### Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Woodland	93.8		84
Prairie	7.9		7
Facilities	4.4		4
Savanna	4.3		4
Wetland	1		1
Glade	0.3		<1
Pond	0.3		<1
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>		<b>100</b>
Stream Frontage		0.6	

### Public Input Summary:

The draft Runge Conservation Nature Center Management Plan was available for a public comment period March 1–31, 2016. The Missouri Department of Conservation received 22 comments from 21 respondents (Appendix A). The Runge Conservation Nature Center Planning Team carefully reviewed and considered these ideas as they finalized this document. A brief summary of public input themes, including how they were incorporated or why they were not, can be found below. Rather than respond to each individual comment, comments are grouped into general themes and are addressed collectively.

Prior to writing this draft area management plan, the Department conducted a public input process (the Runge Conservation Nature Center Idea Gathering Stage) from July 1-31, 2015. During this “idea gathering” stage, the Department received input from 28 respondents (see “Runge Conservation Nature Center Idea Gathering Stage Public Input Summary” at <http://on.mo.gov/1TR4KWq>). The area management planning team took comments into consideration as they drafted this 10-year management plan for Runge Conservation Nature Center. Department responses to comments received during the July 2015 idea gathering stage can be found in the report, *Missouri Department of Conservation Responses to Public Comments – Runge Conservation Nature Center Idea Gathering Stage*. This report is available upon request by contacting Amy Buechler ([amy.buechler@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:amy.buechler@mdc.mo.gov)).

Department responses to themes and issues identified through the Runge Conservation Nature Center public comment period

**Suggests eradicating invasive plants (honeysuckle, winter creeper, Bradford pear) at Runge. Suggests assigning invasive species eradication a priority for the next three years.** Invasive species control is always a priority on public land, but complete control is never a reality. Management to keep problem species stable to decreasing is the goal.

**Concerned with abundance of deer at Runge and in surrounding neighborhoods. Concerned with deer eating plants in neighbors’ yards. Concerned about deer-vehicle collisions near Runge. Supports a managed deer hunt at Runge.**

The Conservation Commission recently approved a 4-day managed archery deer hunt on the Runge and Central Office grounds to take place December 16-19, 2016. The goal of this managed hunt is to help reduce the local deer population. Ten archery hunters will be selected through our managed hunt draw system. Runge Conservation Nature Center will be closed on those days to allow for a successful hunt.

**Concerned with the abundance of deer in other parts of Jefferson City.**

Urban and suburban deer are nearly always a difficult thing to manage. Fortunately, the City of Jefferson allows private landowners to decide for themselves if they want to allow archery hunting on their property to help keep deer numbers down.

**Enjoys walking on trails at Runge.**

Thank you, our grounds staff work continuously to keep the trails inviting to public use.

**Maps:**

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

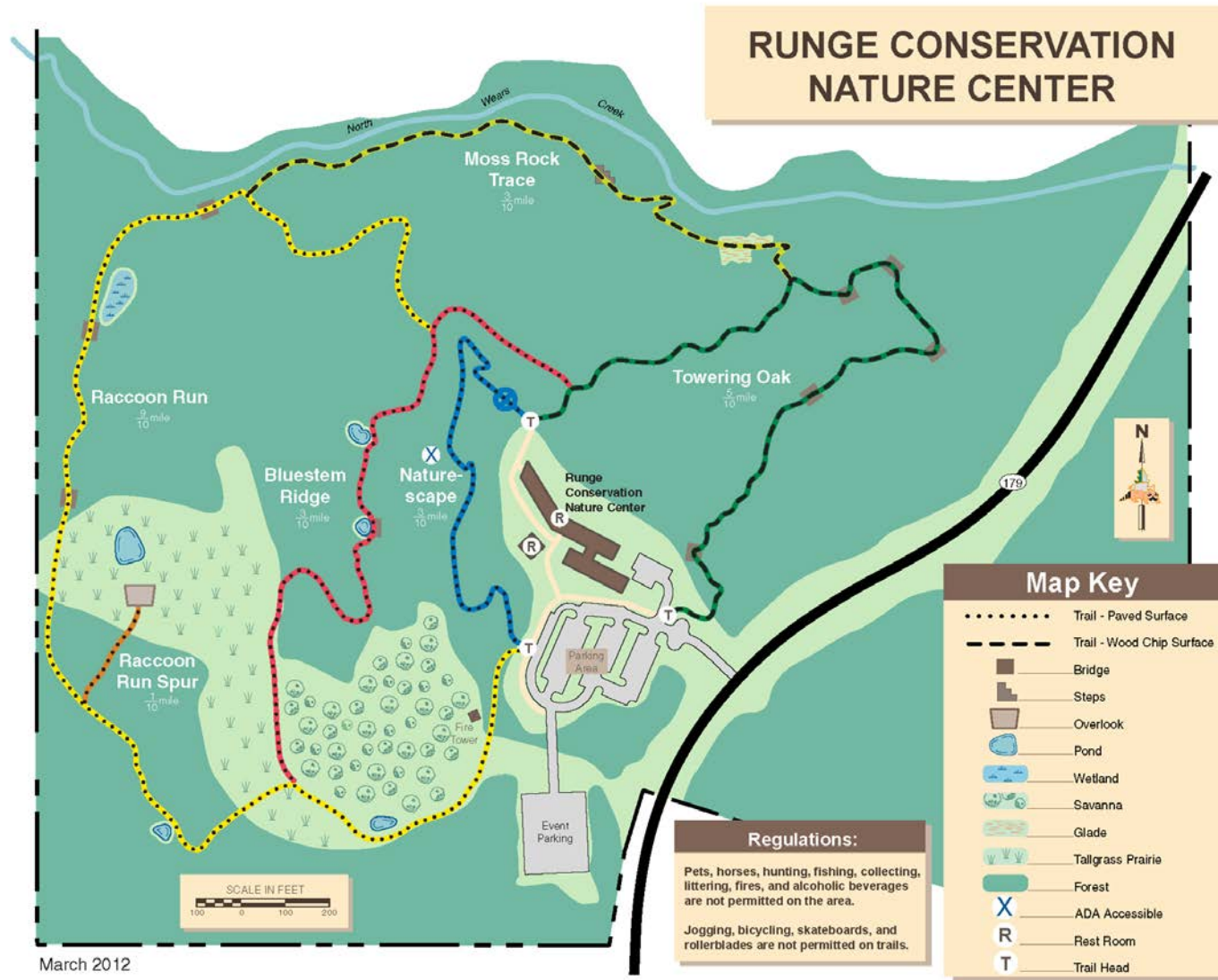
Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map

Figure 5: Easement Map

**Additional Appendices:**

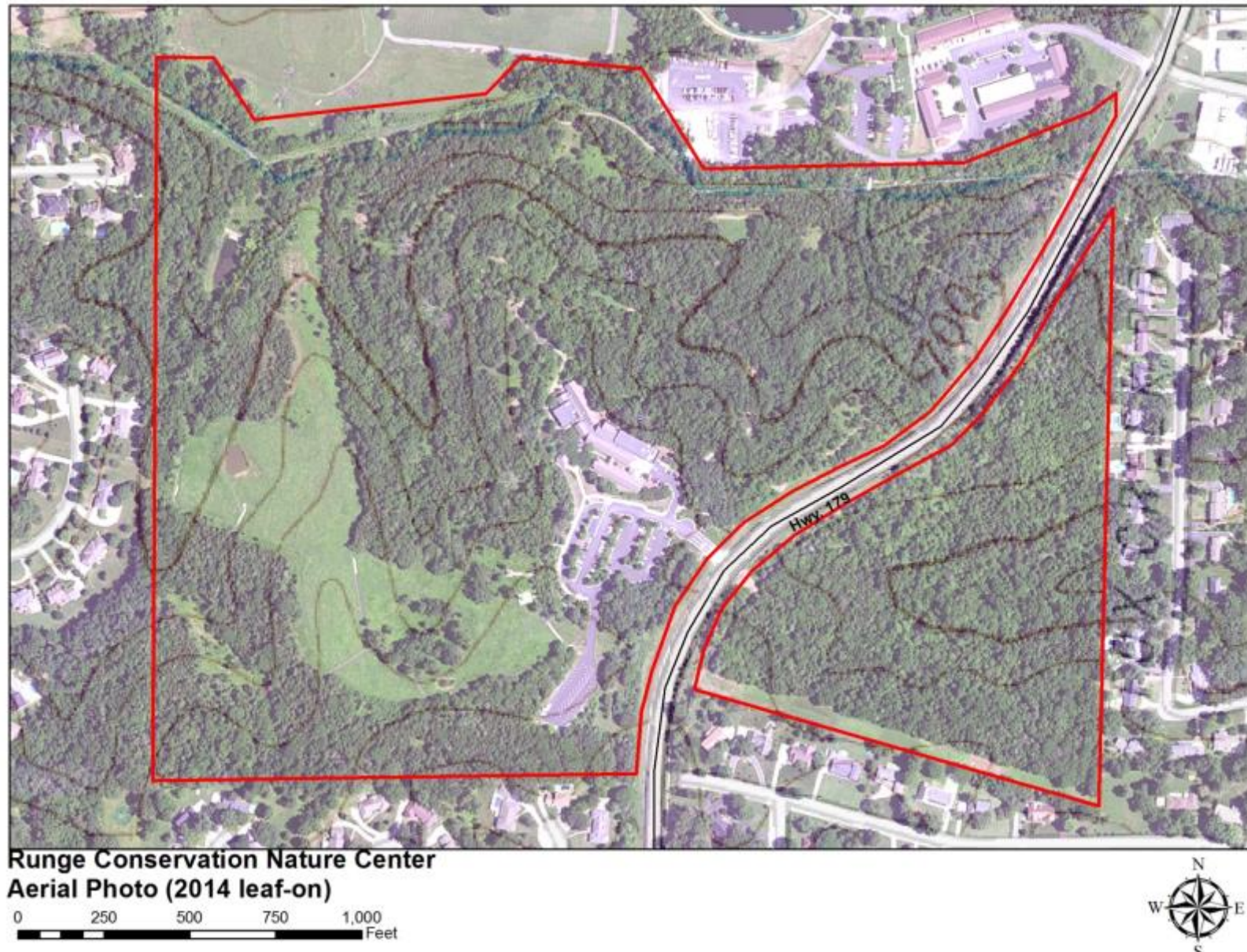
Appendix A: Runge Conservation Nature Center Management Plan Public Comments

**Figure 1: Area Map**



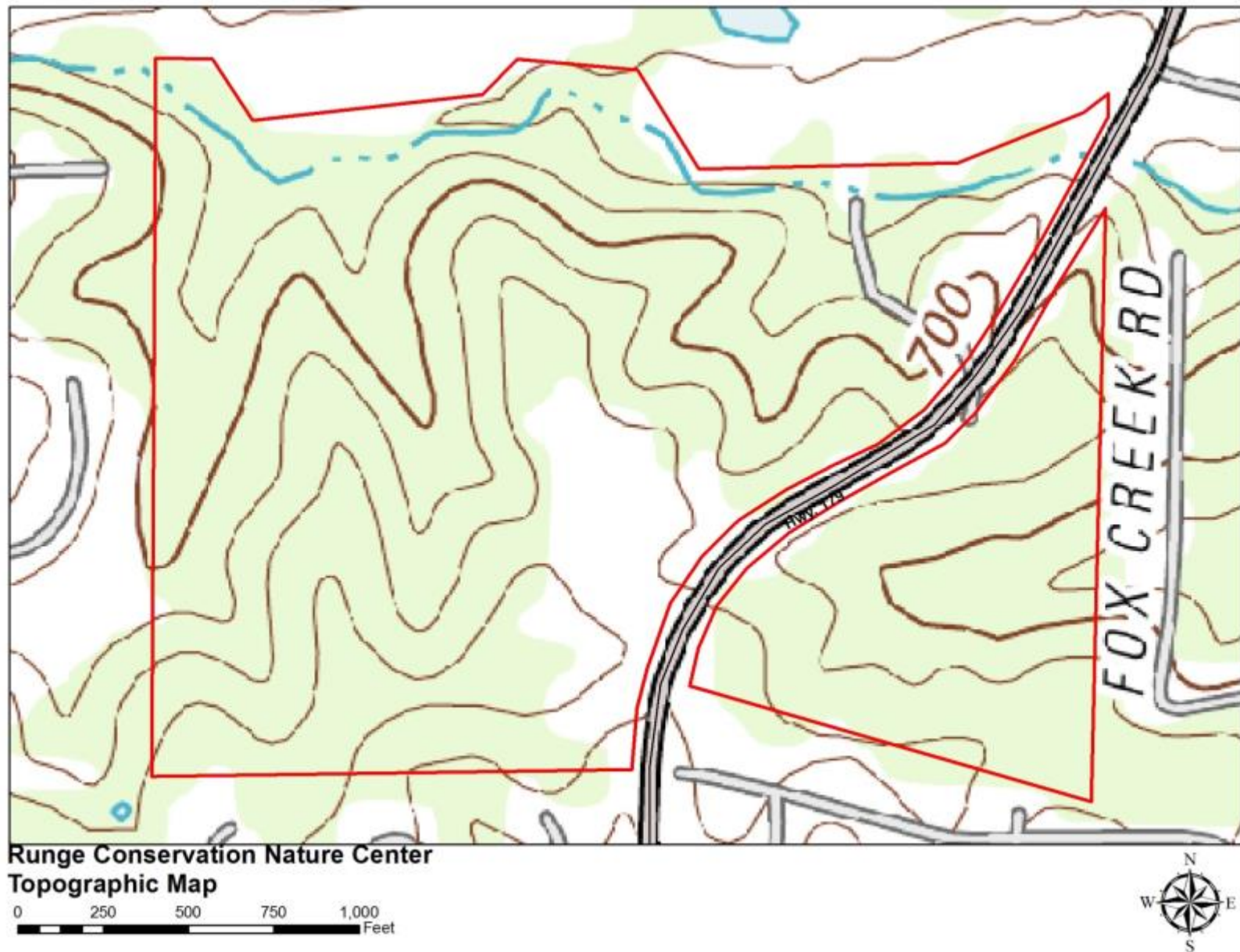


**Figure 2: Aerial Map**





**Figure 3: Topographic Map**

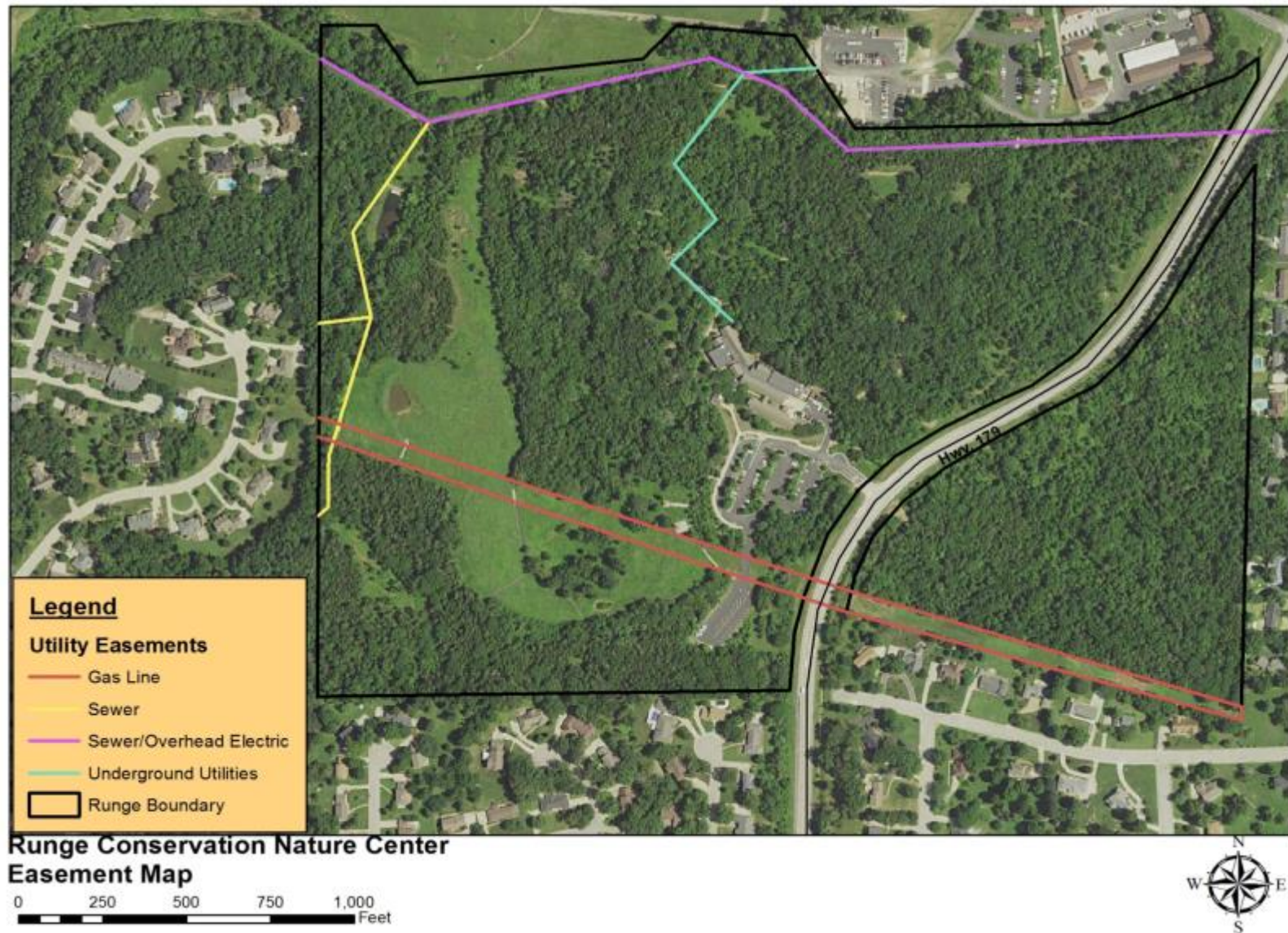


**Figure 4: Current Vegetation Map**





Figure 5: Easement Map



## Appendix A. Runge Conservation Nature Center Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (March 1-31, 2016):

I am in two garden clubs. Almost everyone in the clubs experiences frustration with the over abundance of deer. Not only do they eat the ornamental plants, but eat the vegetables. One home, right in the middle of town, has given up having a garden. While this is frustrating, the bigger concern is safety. I have hit a deer with my car. My husband has hit a deer twice. Thankfully, we were not injured either time. However, our vehicles were severely hurt and one was totaled.
(3/29/2016 - phone call): Supports managed hunt in Jefferson City. Her neighborhood (east side of Jeff City) has a lot of nuisance deer. They're out in the road, they're eating her garden, they're eating the shrubs, etc. She was surprised and thankful when informed that Jefferson City allows archery deer hunting in the city limits.
I live in the area adjacent to McClung Park and Lincoln U. We have constant deer damage in our yard which is not fenced to protect for wildlife entry. Additionally, it is almost a daily sight to see deer crossing Leslie Blvd. in the area near the high school and Lincoln.
Live near Runge. WAY too many deer in neighborhood, obviously you cannot teach deer to "stay home" in the Runge Center. They eat my plants which I have paid a lot of money to purchase. They have no fear, cannot chase them from my yard.
Continue the eradication of invasive species like honeysuckle, winter creeper, and bradford pear etc. Add interpretive information telling the public why this is important. For example the removal of invasives cost me about \$1000/year on my Gasconade County 120 acre farm. Mostly Serecial Lespadeza, bradford pear, and honeysuckle.
People shouldn't plant these for onamentals. Most of these plants should be listed as a noxious weed and not be permitted to be sold in Missouri.
We do not have a particular problem with the deer population because we don't have many plantings as of this time. but seeing the problems that some of my neighbors have makes me leery of doing any plantings in our back yard. Thanks
(Hardcopy Comment 3/15/2016): I spend a hr just talking with the employees that were working today, have had everyone of my many ?s answered with more than enough information & right a report on them all. Love MO conservation.
the deer just clean our hostas and flowers out each year . we have just about given up on a beautiful yard. make it an open season on deer and let us kill about 100 of them and give us a chance. we are selling our house and moving out so I can garden again.
(Phone call 3/31/2016): We have a major deer problem. The deer eat her sunflower seeds from her bird feeder. We need to do something in town to control deer. Supports a managed hunt at Runge.

(Hardcopy comment received 3/21/2016): We enjoy taking a walk on the paths at the Nature Center about 1 or 2 times each month when the weather is nice.

Our main concern is the number of deer in our neighborhood. Many times we have at least 5 or 6 in our yard and they are eating many of our flowers and vegetables. it is a lot of work planning and gardening and purchasing plants and then to have the deer eat them within a week of planning is heart breaking. We would love to get rid of the deer here in the city.

(Hardcopy comment received 3/24/2016)We live in the Orchards Subdivision - 2604 Drew Perry Rd. We have a huge population of deer. They destroy our flower gardens and eat the buds and blooms. It's very expensive to make an investment in the plants to have them destroyed. Many of us enjoy gardening and the deer travel right next to the house and destroy the flower gardens. We would encourage and request any assistance to help control or eliminate the deer population in our area.

Thank you,

(Hardcopy comment received 2/24/2016)We would welcome some attention to the deer population in our area (Orchard Subdivision). They are lovely to see and watch, but they really enjoy my daylilies as soon as they bloom! They also enjoy chomping off the new growth of any tulips this spring (first time in 4 years we have lived here)

(Hardcopy Comment Received 3/22/2016) I live in a neighborhood of New Townhomes with a large wooded area between us and Industrial Drive. Deer are a constant problem - eating almost anything we plant in pots or raised beds. Examples: Impatiens, tulips, flowering bushes, young tomato plants, green bean bushes, and the list goes on! We homeowners take great pride in our area. The lawns are well maintained by the homeowners assoc. paid for (of course) by us.

There must be a remedy for the extensive damage constantly happening to our plantings from groups of four or more deer almost daily seen in the area.

In addition: Abundant squirrels make growing tomatoes impossible without elaborate wire cages and netting - event then the squirrels win - getting over 50% of the crop!

Phone call: Indicated she is in favor of a managed hunt at Runge.

I am an active member of the club, and have been an active member since 1979. There are now about 80 women in the club. We all have a huge interest in gardening, and not one of us has not had trouble with deer, or had a friend or neighbor tell stories of what they have eaten, rubbed, and ruined on our property and yards inside the city limits and the area just outside the city. Trees, shrubs, flowers, fruit and veggies, all have been eaten. We have tried all the old home remedies, and the expensive sprays and nothing seems to help. One can hardly put up a 9 foot fence when they live in the city and are just trying to protect the shrubs in the front of the house.

Please can we start having more managed hunts and cut the number of deer way down in Jefferson City.

I have been an active member of the Central Mo. Master Gardeners since the early 1980's. We are a large group of almost 200 members, men and women, young and old, new gardeners, and some very experienced gardeners. We all love the outdoors, gardening, growing, and teaching others how to garden and enjoy growing. One topic that always comes up no matter where we are, is the subject of deer problems, and what has happened to our yard, what can we do about it, and what have we tried so far that did not help. Our trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, fruits, and vegetables have all been eaten and ruined by deer. Some of us do live in the county, but most live inside the city limits. Please we are asking for some help with decreasing the deer population in Jefferson City. We invite you to come to one of our monthly meetings and just see a show of hands of all those who have had a deer problem.

(Hardcopy Comment 3/15/2016): As we live in Valley Park West subdivision directly across Hwy179 since 1988 - Runge Center has been a great neighbor. We do feel deer population needs controlled as we count as many as 7 at a time & frustration of hitting one directly at the Runge Center Entrance.

(Hardcopy Comment Received 3/22/2016) We have a continuing deer problem here in the "orchard" town houses with the feasting on flowers, vegetables, and bushes.

In your efforts to manage this issue we would continue to urge look at hunting and other means.

If you found it useful, we would have no objection to relocating a blind, tree, etc on our property at \*\*\*\* Drew Perry Rd

(3/29/2016 - phone call): She supports a managed hunt in Jefferson City. She lives near the Oak Hills golf course on the southeast side of Jefferson City and is inundated with deer. There is deer poop everywhere. They have already eaten all green plants that have come up so far this spring. She wondered if they could hold a managed hunt at Oak Hills golf course (owned by Jefferson City). I informed her that archery hunting was allowed on private property in Jefferson City and that the City could decide to work with the Department of Conservation to hold a managed hunt.

I live very close to Runge. It is a wonderful asset to the community and is heavily used. However, I have concerns about the large number of deer that have populated this area. Behind my home it is wooded and many early mornings I see deer bedding down there. They have become fairly domesticated by living in this area of homes. They are also a hazard on the roads, especially in the dark.

As a result they do quite a bit of damage to gardens and plantings around homes. I hope that you will consider controlling the population. I would not oppose bow and arrow hunting during deer season. Thank you

I have read the plan. There is lack of recognition of the size of the invasive plant problem at Runge. There is currently no effective suppression going on, and the problem grows as little is being done about it. This is the most urgent terrestrial management problem at Runge, and yet it has not been assigned to the priorities table at the end of the plan. It is considered "ongoing", yet suppression is not happening. This should be assigned a priority in year one of the plan as well as at least the next three years, because it will probably take that level of effort to get it under control.

As far as land management responsibility for the grounds at Runge, I would like to see that handled by two MDC land management divisions: Forestry and Wildlife. They are better equipped to recognize the invasive and other ecological problems and would be effective in addressing them.

(Hardcopy comment received 3/21/2016): We have deer roam through our property almost daily. They are a problem for our neighborhood flowers.